ICTC Meeting Notes – March 27, 2024

Annual report was approved

Chris Misra - provided an overview of the transition away from Adobe and shared slide deck.

- Regarding the slide on Adobe alternatives, Nikki Stoia mentioned worker education classes; shared that she took Canva training; thought it was very helpful and easy to pick up.
  (note: Canva the graphic design tool – not to be confused with Canvas the LMS)
- Janine Solberg – regarding Foxit replacing Acrobat Pro, Janine asked about teaching with Adobe for next year and beyond. She shared that she currently uses Adobe to check accessibility. (note: IT has since learned from ATC team testing that Foxit is comparable if not better than Adobe for accessibility)
- Paul Kelley noted some system concerns regarding pop-up message and NSF-related issues.
- Jeff Blanchard said he isn't concerned personally about Adobe going away
- Terry Carroll gave update on UPST procurement of Canva: working on terms and conditions

Chris Misra provided an update about Research Computing.

- Chris Misra: There have been significant improvements to the Unity cluster and the Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center (MGHPCC)
- Mike Zink: need for training and access for students to use the cluster (no resources for students unless in a particular faculty lab) as well as training/use-case for faculty
- Jeff Blachard: He has been working with Unity and Georgia Stuart has been great to work with. He also mentioned the need to address teaching/training equity issues with Unity and Research Computing.
- Janine Solberg: asked if this is similar to issues with UMass Create. Chris Misra shared that it is in a similar vein, but not the same problem. Karen Howard to connect with Brian Shelbourne about UMass Create.

Matthew Dalton gave an update about Safelinks performance

- Blocking 500-1000 phishing and malware clicks per month
- Still looking into the possibility of whitelisting some domains such as umass.edu

Nikki Stoia asked about initiatives to provide laptops for students with financial need

- Chris Misra will ask Shelly Perdomo-Ahmed if anyone is looking at that
- Jeff Blanchard mentioned the Library laptop loan program; Janine Solberg pointed out that the Library laptop loans are for three days only – Terry Carroll will check into usage in that program
- Jeff Blanchard mentioned that our Graduate programs usually deal with this on a per-student basis
- Janine Solberg noted that Chrome books vary from laptops, so it’s helpful when instructions for Chrome books are included from IT.